

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**CURRENT STATE OF BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT**  
**TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT OUTLINE**

**1. Introduction**

- a. Overview of why and how vessels add ballast water
- b. Ballast water sources
  - i. Freshwater, saltwater, brackish water
  - ii. Source locations (Overseas, Coastal, Great Lakes, etc.)
- c. Ballast water impacts
  - i. Environmental damage caused by Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)
  - ii. Socioeconomic damage caused by ANS

**2. Ballast Water Regulations/Requirements to Prevent ANS Introduction and Propagation**

- a. Overview of laws to address ANS
- b. IMO requirements
  - i. Limits
  - ii. Type certification process and status of revisions
  - iii. International ratification and status
- c. EPA/USCG regulations
  - i. Ballast water management plans
  - ii. Mandatory ballast water management practices
  - iii. Ballast water discharge limits
    - i. Compliance alternatives (BWTS, onshore treatment, public water supply, no discharge) and exemptions (short-distance, barges, Lakers, small)
    - ii. Schedule and status (USCG extension program and EPA low enforcement priority)

- iii. Interim requirements
  - iv. Ballast water treatment system type certification process and status (including number approved, systems in the queue, viability versus dead)
  - v. Alternative management system acceptance, grandfather period, and status
  - vi. STEP
  - vii. Fishing vessels and commercial vessels less than 79 feet moratorium
- d. Requirements specific to the Great Lakes
  - i. Laker BMPs
  - ii. Ballast water exchange and flushing for overseas vessels (Salties)
- e. Requirements for individual states or Indian country lands

### **3. Ballast Water Management Considerations**

- a. Availability of U.S. type approved ballast water treatment systems
- b. Revisions to the ETV protocol for U.S. type approval testing
- c. USCG extensions
- d. Exemptions for Lakers built before 2009
- e. Replacement of IMO type certified ballast water treatment systems

### **4. Vessel Universe**

- a. Number of vessels impacted by US and IMO ballast water regulations
  - i. U.S. flagged vessels by vessel type (bulker, cargo, tanker, barges, passenger, etc.)
  - ii. Foreign flagged vessel by vessel type (bulker, cargo, tanker, barges, passenger, etc.)
- b. Characteristics of commercial vessel impacted by US and IMO ballast water regulations
  - i. Length and tonnage of vessels by vessel type
  - ii. Average age of vessels by vessel type

- iii. Ballast water capacity by vessel type
- c. Voyage patterns for commercial vessels impacted by US and IMO ballast water regulations.
  - i. Vessels entering U.S. waters from overseas
  - ii. Vessels that remain in U.S. coastal waters
  - iii. Vessels entering the Great Lakes from outside the EEZ
  - vi. Vessels confined to the Great Lakes (i.e. Lakers).

## **5. Ballast Water Treatment Principals**

- a. Treatment system intent
- b. Treatment system unit operations
- c. Treatment system design consideration
  - i. Freshwater versus saltwater
  - ii. Ambient water temperature
  - iii. Typical voyage duration
  - iv. Size (space and weight)
  - v. Power requirements
- d. Treatment system operational considerations
  - i. Operational frequency
  - ii. Operational complexity (labor, chemicals)
  - iii. Maintenance requirements

## **6. Commercially Available Ballast Water Treatment Systems**

- a. Vessel applicability
- b. Summary of ballast water treatment systems having AMS acceptance
- c. Additional ballast water treatment systems without AMS

## **7. Ballast Water Treatment System Performance**

- a. IMO and USCG Type Certification requirements
- b. Summary of IMO Type Certification testing data
- c. IMO Type Certification data quality issues
- d. Long-term performance data

## **8. Ballast Water Treatment System Costs**

- a. Capital costs
  - i. Purchase and installation of ballast water treatment systems for new vessels
  - ii. Purchase and installation of ballast water treatment systems on existing vessels
- b. Annual costs
  - i. Labor for ballast treatment system operation
  - ii. Energy for ballast treatment system operation
  - iii. Chemical costs for ballast treatment system operation
  - iv. Monitoring costs for ballast water treatment system operation

## **9. Compliance Monitoring**

- a. Sampling considerations
  - i. Accessing ballast water tanks
  - ii. Volume of ballast water needed for analysis
  - iii. Collection of representative samples from multiple ballast tanks
  - iv. On-board testing or off-ship laboratory analysis
- b. Analytical methods
  - i. Ballast water treatment functionality monitoring

- BWTS sensors
- Summarize and describe submitted data and data quality
  - ii. Techniques for measurement of living organisms in ballast water samples
  - iii. New sensor technologies (e.g., in-line fluorescence, ATP)
  - iv. Measurement of treatment residuals in discharges (e.g., in-line chlorine sensors )

## **10. Off-ship Ballast Water Treatment**

- a. Alternatives for off-ship treatment
- b. Design considerations for off-ship reception facilities
  - i. Vessel applicability
  - ii. Ballast water volume and duration of discharge
  - iii. Number and location of ballast water reception facilities per port
  - iv. Freshwater or saltwater discharge
  - v. On-site treatment or municipal treatment (e.g., POTW)
  - vi. Environmental conditions (cold climates)
- c. Current availability of off-ship reception facilities
- d. Costs to construct and operate off-ship reception facilities
- e. Practicality of off-ship ballast water treatment including the pros and cons

## **11. Ballast Water Alternatives**

- a. Permanent ballast
- b. On-board potable water generation
- c. Ballasting with municipal potable water

## **12. References**